



Federal Agencies Plant Trees at Fort Detrick



Fort Detrick hosted the Federal Agencies Committee (FAC) meeting on October 9, 1997. Col. Albert Kinkead, commander of Fort Detrick, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees to the post and talking about his experiences with the Chesapeake Bay and the improvements that he has noted since he was last stationed in the watershed in the early 1980s. Kinkead also talked about the importance of the Bay to the military and expressed his hope that the FAC and the Chesapeake Bay Program could find ways to make it easier for participants to get things done. Other highlights and announcements from the meeting included:

- A workgroup has been formed to coordinate federal efforts on Pfiesteria. The workgroup will review and determine ways to address the national Pfiesteria strategy, allocate funds, and handle risk management issues.
- A 6-month panel has been developed to address stormwater management issues in the Anacostia watershed.
- The Habitat Restoration Workgroup has established a new mission with new activities. The workgroup is coordinating the riparian forest buffer effort and has named representatives from each federal agency to assist in the effort. The workgroup will conduct habitat restoration opportunity assessments that will tie into the already established Federal Facility Site Assessment program. A list of habitat restoration priority projects for federal facilities is being developed. Project for considerations should involve multiple agencies and/or technical expertise from the workgroup, be highly transferable, test a new ap-

proach, and involve the public or volunteers. A federal agency talent list is being developed to provide expertise on the site assessments and the priority projects. The workgroup also plans on developing workshops for federal agency representatives.

- The Federal Land Stewardship Workgroup has undertaken a number of new projects. The workgroup is developing an integrated pest management (IPM) initiative to track IPM at federal facilities. The workgroup is working with the Toxics Subcommittee's Businesses for the Bay Program to identify pollution prevention initiatives at federal facilities. The workgroup is also working with the Local Government Advisory Committee to see if the Bay Partner Communities Award program can be modified to recognize federal agency Bay efforts and progress.
- The Nutrient Reduction Workgroup has conducted nine federal facility site assessments. The most recent assessment was conducted at Solomons Island Recreation Center where team members evaluated and made recommendations on the facility's erosion issues.

Following the meeting and lunch at the post's dining facilities, the FAC members planted trees along Carroll Creek as part of Fort Detrick's riparian forest buffer effort. Riparian buffers are trees that grow along streambanks. Due to the numerous benefits these buffers provide to an ecosystem, the Chesapeake Bay Program has established a goal to restore 2,010 miles of riparian forest buffer by the year 2010. As a partner in the Bay effort, the Army has committed to establishing 30 miles of forest cover along streambanks.

Fort Detrick's riparian forest buffer effort began in April 1997 when more than 100 volunteers gathered to plant approximately 900 trees and shrubs on 3 acres along Carroll Creek (see Army Chesapeake Review, May 1997). During the October planting, the FAC members planted more than 200 trees and shrubs to add to the buffer area and replace the vegetation lost during the summer's drought. Fort Detrick plans to conduct additional plantings to increase its riparian buffer system.



Executive Council Makes Natural History



The Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, composed of the governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; the mayor of the District of Columbia; the Administrator of the EPA; and the chairperson of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, met on October 30, 1997, in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. The over-riding theme of the meeting was the Chesapeake Bay Program's nutrient reduction reevaluation. This reevaluation was conducted over the past year to determine the status of the states in reaching the Year 2000 40 percent nutrient reduction goal.

The reevaluation determined that although much progress has been made since the 1985 baseline year, a lot more needs to be done. Gaps toward the goal exist, particularly for nitrogen. The reevaluation also disclosed that a 40 percent reduction may not be enough to achieve the desired habitat restoration goals. As a result, the Executive Council established three new directives to further the nutrient reduction process.

Directive No. 97-1: Baywide Nutrient Reduction Progress and Future Directions. The 1997 nutrient reduction reevaluation showed that much of the progress toward nutrient reduction has been made where tributary strategies have been implemented. The reevaluation recommended that other tributary strategies and implementation efforts be accelerated in order to attain the 40% reduction goal. New information has shown that tougher more area-specific goals may need to be developed to ensure the Bay's restoration. Directive No. 97-1 establishes a wide range of actions to speed up and augment current nutrient reduction efforts. The directive also commits to refining the Bay Program's monitoring and modeling of the Bay and its watershed to assure the most accurate measures of progress.

Directive No. 97-2: Wetlands Protection and Restoration Goals. With this directive, the Executive Council reaffirmed its 1989 wetlands policy of a no net loss of wetlands for the watershed. The council also reconfirmed its commitment to reduce the losses of wetlands from regulated activities, compensate for unavoidable wetland losses, and encourage non-regulatory measures to protect and manage wetlands. With this directive, the council initiated a process to establish a quantifiable wetland restoration goal and define methods to measure progress in meeting that goal. The council also committed to developing tools and information that will assist the wetland initiatives of local governments and community-based watershed efforts.

Directive No. 97-3: Community Watershed Initiative. In an effort to integrate and strengthen the various Chesapeake Bay initiatives and goals, the Executive Council signed Directive No. 97-3 to support community-based watershed planning and to engage local organizations, citizens, and governments in the restoration and protection of the waterways in their watersheds.

Over the coming year, the Chesapeake Bay Program partners will develop a community watershed strategy for the Executive Council to consider at the 1998 annual meeting. The upcoming directive will include the following elements:

- Recognize the importance of subwatershed involvement in the Bay effort and the unique characteristics of each subwatershed
- Integrate the various Bay Program commitments at the subwatershed scale
- Develop success criteria for the local partners to measure progress
- Identify and enhance mechanisms to assist local governments and watershed groups
- Identify opportunities to link current federal and state efforts to community watershed initiatives
- Develop guidelines that delineate community-defined subwatersheds

Following the signing of these directives, representatives from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Piankatank Watershed Project, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, and the Octoraro Watershed Association presented the Executive Council with the *Declaration for Our Rivers*. This document signed by more than 84 Chesapeake Bay watershed and environmental groups, recommitted watershed groups to acting as stewards and keepers of the rivers and waters entering the Bay. The declaration also called for federal and state agencies to support local watershed restoration and protection efforts. The document requested that these agencies meet their nutrient, habitat restoration, and fisheries management goals in a timely manner and include public participation in future decision making activities.

The governors and Mayor Barry then discussed their individual jurisdictions' success stories, challenges, and current and upcoming initiatives. Carol Browner, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, discussed federal agency efforts and progress. The meeting concluded with Governor Glendening of Maryland accepting the Executive Council chairperson position, which has been maintained over the last year by Administrator Browner.

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